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03MRA0013/02MRA0548**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

[17] Figure 1 illustrates a sliding roof system having two guide tracks 10 and a cover 12. Both guide tracks 10 extend roughly in the longitudinal direction of a vehicle roof (not shown). In the illustrated embodiment, both guide tracks 10 are designed to be curved in two planes, specifically about one axis parallel to the ~~a~~ vertical axis of the vehicle and about ~~an~~ another axis that is parallel to the ~~a~~ transverse axis of the vehicle. In this manner, both guide tracks 10 can follow the shape of the side edges of the vehicle roof, particularly because modern vehicle roofs are usually curved and have a width that changes from front to back. Accordingly, the distance of the guide tracks from each other may also change as a function of the position that is being observed along the vehicle's longitudinal axis.

[19] A guide element 14 is arranged in each guide track 10. In the illustrated embodiment, the guide element 14 is designed as a slider. The drive mechanism (not shown) for the cover 12 engages the guide elements 14. A guide bar 18 is mounted on each guide element 14 via an articulated joint 16, which in each case is movably contained in a sliding guide 20. Each sliding guide 20 is fixedly attached to the cover 12. A lever 24 is attached at the end of each guide bar 18 that is facing away from guide element 14 via another articulated joint 22. The lever 24 is also connected to one end of a coupling lever 28 via a further articulated joint 26. The coupling lever 28 is rotatably supported on the cover 12 by a swivel axle 30 that is arranged centrally between both articulated joints 26.

[20] By rotating the coupling lever 28 about a swivel axis of the swivel axle 30, the distance of the guide elements 14 from each other can be varied via the levers 24 and the guide bars ~~20~~ 18 and can therefore be adjusted to adapt to the specific distance between guide tracks 10 at any given point. Because the coupling lever 28 is fixedly mounted on

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the cover 12 via the swivel axle 30, the cover 12 is centered between both guide elements 14. Due to the displacement direction predefined by both sliding guides 20, which is perpendicular to the displacement direction P of the cover 12, the mechanism for moving the guide elements 14 cannot jam. This eliminates the need for an additional guide. However, a second guide having guide elements, guide bars, sliding guide, and coupling lever may be provided, if desired, to guide the cover in an even more stable fashion.

[22] In the second embodiment, the guide bars 18 are each equipped with a toothed rack 32, which is designed as an integral part of the guide bars 18 in the illustrated embodiment. Alternatively, the toothed racks 32 may be separate components attached to their respective guide bars 18 via any known mechanism. A gear wheel 3234 is rotatably mounted on a swivel axisaxle 30 and attached to the cover 12. The toothed racks 32 are disposed so that the sides opposite each other mesh in the gear wheel 34.

[23] A coupling mechanism configured in this manner makes it possible to adjust the distance of guide elements 14 from each other while at the same time keeping the cover 12 centered by ~~the~~about the swivel axis of the swivel axisaxle 30 with respect to the guide elements 14.

[26] In addition to the first pair of sliding guides and guide elements, a second, supplemental pair of guide elements 40 is provided, which are mounted on a second, supplemental pair of guide bars 42 in an articulated fashion, the guide bars in turn being movably contained in supplemental sliding guides 44, which are fixedly mounted on the cover 12. Both ~~of the supplemental~~ sliding guides 44 define a displacement direction for both ~~of the supplemental~~ guide bars 42 that is perpendicular to displacement direction P of the cover 12 and therefore also perpendicular to the central axis of the cover 12.

[29] In this embodiment, two ~~of the sliding~~ guides 20 are disposed perpendicular to the displacement direction P of the cover. Each guide bar 18 arranged in the sliding guides 20

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is supported by a resilient member 46, such as a spring 46, on a limit stop 40. The
resilient member 46 is mounted in the center of the cover 12. In this way, the cover 12 is
centered in the middle between the two guide tracks 10.